

# **GNSO Working Group Model and Possible Alternative Models**

## **PDP 3.0 Improvement #2: Consider alternatives to the open Working Group (WG) model**

As noted in PDP 3.0: The PDP Manual provides the flexibility to consider different types of PDP Team structures, for example, reference is made to working group, task force, committee of the whole or drafting team. To ensure representation as well as empowerment of WG members, different team structures could be considered, for example, having members designated by SO/AC/SG/Cs while individuals can join as participants or observers. This model has worked efficiently in recent Cross-Community Working Groups. Similarly, an alternative approach to the open WG model has recently been applied in the context of the EPDP. At the same time, there may not be a one-size fits all model, so different alternatives could be explored so that the best fit approach for each PDP can be utilized.

To facilitate consideration of this improvement, staff has developed a non-exhaustive list of possible models that have been used to date in the context of the PDP or otherwise, including potential issues (see hereunder). The Council may use this list as a starting point to further elaborate these models and/or add further alternatives that could be considered by the GNSO Council when commencing a PDP. In addition, the Council should consider developing criteria that would facilitate determining which model is best suit for purpose.

PDP Team Models:

### **Option 1 - GNSO Working Group Model**

The (E)PDP Team will be open to all interested in participating. New members who join after work has been completed will need to review previous documents and meeting transcripts.

*Potential issues: WGs could become extremely large depending on the level of interest in the topic, which would make the management of the group and deliberations challenging and lengthy, similar to some of the challenges that the RDS PDP WG has faced, and which has hindered the RDS PDP WG's ability to reach consensus. With everyone participating as individuals it is at times difficult to assess whether positions are representative of communities where the individual hails from and how to balance individual vs. group perspectives.*

### **Option 2 - Cross-Community Working Group (CCWG) Model**

Participation in the (E)PDP Team is open to GNSO Stakeholder Group (SG) appointed Members, participants and observers. Members are appointed by GNSO SGs in accordance with their own rules and procedures. Each SG would appoint a maximum of 3 Members with up to 2 alternates (alternates would only participate if members are not available). Other ICANN Supporting Organization/Advisory Committee (SO/AC) would be invited to appoint 1 member, and if needed, 1 alternate who would participate if the member is not available. (numbers could be adjusted – may need to consider the

potential budget impact of the number of members should face-to-face meetings be deemed necessary).

In addition to the role that Stakeholder Group appointed members have in relation to potential consensus calls or decisions (see below), they are expected to serve as a liaison between their respective Stakeholder Groups and the (E)PDP Team. Members must, if and when necessary, ensure that the SGs are kept up to date on the progress and deliberations of the (E)PDP Team as well as sharing any input from the SGs with the (E)PDP Team.

In addition, the (E)PDP Team would be open to any interested person as a Participant. Participants may be from a GNSO SG or Constituency, or may be self-appointed and derive from within the ICANN or broader community. Participants will be able to actively participate in and attend all (E)PDP Team meetings. However, should there be a need for a consensus call or decision, such consensus call or decision will be limited to members appointed by the GNSO SGs who may consult as appropriate with their respective SGs. By self-appointing, a Participant commits to abide to the charter of the (E)PDP Team.

Observers may join the (E)PDP Team and would be subscribed to the mailing list on a read-only basis (no posting rights). Observers are not allowed to attend the (E)PDP Team meetings. However, should an observer desire to change his/her status to participant, they can do so at any time.

*Potential Issues: Depending on the interest in the topic, a significant number of participants might sign up making the group very large and possible unwieldy. See similar issues with Option 1 above.*

### **Option 3 - GNSO Review WG Model**

Each GNSO SG and/or Constituency will identify one primary and one alternate member to serve on the (E)PDP Team.

In addition, anyone interested will be able to join this working group as a participant or observer.

*Potential Issues: Depending on the interest in the topic, a significant number of participants might sign up making the group very large and possible unwieldy. See similar issues with Options 1 and 2 above.*

### **Option 4 - Standing Selection Committee Model**

The (E)PDP Team shall consist of a total of 9 members, appointed as follows:

1. One member appointed by each SG of the Contracted Party House;
2. One member appointed respectively by each of the Business Constituency, the Intellectual Property Constituency, and the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency;
3. Three members appointed by the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group; and,
4. One member from one of the three Nominating-Committee appointees to the GNSO Council.

*Potential issues: In the standing committee model, decisions are taken by full consensus which is not, normally, the case in a PDP so this composition may not be acceptable as a model for some PDPs.*

#### **Option 5 – EPDP Team Model**

Participation in the (E)PDP Team consists of GNSO SG and Constituency appointed Members and alternates, as well as appointed members and alternates from the Supporting Organizations and the Advisory Committees (for those interested to participate), ICANN Org staff Liaisons, Board Liaisons, a Council Liaison, 1 independent Chair, expert contributors (as invited), and observers.

The EPDP Team may invite expert contributors and other resources as deemed necessary by the EPDP Team leadership.

Anyone may join the EPDP Team as an observer. Observers would be subscribed to the EPDP Team mailing list on a read-only basis but are NOT able to post. Observers are NOT allowed to participate in EPDP Team meetings, however, real-time audio cast may be made available to follow deliberations in addition to transcriptions and recordings.

*Potential Issues: Those not affiliated with an SG/C/SO/AC have no ability to directly participate or provide input.*

#### **Option 6 (Committee of the whole)**

The (E)PDP Team will consist of all Council members.